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Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMCONSUL LUANDA
USSACEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8859

LIMDIS

SACEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 116652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV CG AO PFOR US
SUBJ: EASUM MEETING WITH BISENGIMANA

REF: KINSHASA 8694

1. DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENCY BISENGIMANA RECEIVED ASST SECTY EASUM AND MYSELF FOR WELL OVER AN HOUR LATE OCT 19. DISCUSSION WAS BROAD-RANGING, TOUCHING ON WORLD INFLATION, US DOMESTIC SITUATION, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN ZAIRE, HISTORY OF US-ZAIRE RELATIONS, ROLE OF PRES MOBUTU, AND PARTICULARLY US-ZAIRE FOREIGN POLICY INTERRELATIONS IN AFRICA.

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2. REVIEW OF ZAIRE'S TURBULENT HISTORY BEFORE MOBUTU LED BISEN-

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GIMANA TO CONCLUDE THAT WHILE US HAD MADE MISTAKES ELSEWHERE, US PERFORMANCE HERE HAD BEEN FIRST-CLASS AND WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE SPELLED OUT MAJOR CHANGE IN FLOW US RESOURCES BEGINNING ABOUT 1970 WHEN GRANT AID WAS SHARPLY REDUCED AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT BEGAN TO FLOW IN LARGE AMOUNTS. HE ALSO STRESSED ADVANTAGES FOR ZAIRE OF AUTHENTICITY DOCTRINE WHICH HAD FREED COUNTRY FROM STERILE SOCIAL DEBATES ABOUT RELATIVE ADVANTAGES OF CAPITALISM AND COMM-UNISM.

3. MOBUTU HE CALLED A CHIEF WHO AS RESULT OF HIS CAPABILITIES AND ATTAINMENTS NOW HELD UNQUESTIONED AUTHORITY "ABOVE THE STR-UGGLE," WHILE BISENGIMANA'S AUTHORITY AND THAT OF OTHER COLLAB-ORATORS OF PRESIDENT WAS STILL CHALLENGED, MOBUTU PROVIDES ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF STABILITY TO MOVE ZAIRE UP TO CRUISING AL-TITUDE. IN FIVE TO TEN YEARS HE THOUGHT ZIARE COULD DO WITHOUT MOBUTU AND INDEED OBJECTIVE OF PRESIDENT IS TO BRING COUNTRY TO A STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE SOCIETY COULD FUNCTION "ON AUTOMATIC PILOT."

4. IN REPLY EASUM'S INVITATION TO COMMENT ON US POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, BISENGIMANA LAMENTED FACT THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE SELDOM EVEN MENTIONED AFRICA IN MAJOR POLICY ADDRESSES. THIS WAS INDICATION OF REGRETTABLE LACK INTEREST IN HIGH PLACES. ZAIRE HAD ALSO LONG THOUGHT US HAD NOT TRIED HARD ENOUGH TO CHANGE PORTUGUESE POLICIES. HERE HE REFERRED TO EXCHANGES AT TIME OF SECTY ROGERS' VISIT TO KINSHASA BUT THAT WAS IN THE PAST. FOR FUTURE, HE URGED SELECTIVE AMERICAN POLICY WORKING PARTICULARLY CLOSELY WITH WELL-DISPOSED AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS ZAIRE. GIVEN EASE WITH WHICH AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD POLITICIANS ATTACKED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, HE RECOMMENDED LOW PUBLIC PROFILE AND CARE-FUL PRIVATE CULTIVATION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS. HE SAID MOBUTU KNEW HE COULD WIN APPLAUSE BY ATTACKING US IN WORLD FORUMS BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS ADOPTED RESTRAINED POSTURE KNOWING THERE MORE TO GAME THAN APPLAUSE.

5. REGARDING ZAIRE FOREIGN POLICY, BISENGIMANA'S REVIEW FOLLOWED CLOSELY LINE REPORTED IN KINSHASA 8694 BUT THERE WERE SOME DIFF-ERENCES AND SOME NEW ELEMENTS.
(1) BISENGIMANA CAME OUT EVEN HARDER FOR A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY IN ANGOLA THAN DID EASUM. (EASUM HAD OBSERVED THAT WHEREAS IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT US ROLE TO ATTEMPT PRESCRIBE COMPLEXION OF FUTURE INDEPENDENT ANGOLA, WE HAD IMPRESSIVE EXAMPLE IN CONTEMPORARY US SOCIETY OF VALIDITY OF MULTI-RACIAL THESIS.) BISENGIMANA STRESSED THAT PORTUGUESE IN ANGOLA, UNLIKE BELGIANS IN CONGO, WERE THERE AS SETTLERS NOT AS COLONIALIST EXPLOITERS. SOME PORTUGUESE HAD LIVED FIVE CENTURIES IN ANGOLA. IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHE IF MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY NOT ACHIEVED. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN SLIP, HE SAID PRES WAS PRESSING THIS VIEWPOINT ON HOLDEN ROBERTO FROM

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WHICH ONE CAN INFER HOLDEN MAY BELIEVE THAT MULTI-RACILAISM IS AT BEST TRANSITORY PHENOMENON.
(2) REGARDING CABINDA, BISENGIMANA THIS TIME MENTIONED ITS IN-CLUSION IN ANGOLA AS AN ACCEPTABLE GOAL BEFORE MENTIONING ITS POSSIBLE INDEPENDENCE (REFTEL PARA 5). NEEDLESS TO SAY, UNACCEP-TABILITY OF TAKE-OVER CABINDA BY CONGO BRAZZAVILLE WAS AGAIN HIT HARD.
(3) BISENGIMANA, WHO HAD ONLY ALLUDED TO FRENCH MACHINATIONS IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, SPECIFICALLY CHARGED THIS TIME THAT FRANCE IS FINANCING MILITARY TRAINING CAMP UNDER FLEC (TCHIOUFOU) CONTROL. HE ASSERTED "YOU MUST KNOW FROM YOUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES THAT PRES BONGO OF GABON WORKED THIS OUT WITH GISCARD WHEN PASSING THROUGH PARIS ON RECENT TRIP TO PEKING."
(4) BISENGIMANA AGAIN TOUCHED ON DIVISIONS WITHIN PORTUGUESE GOVT AND "DANGEROUS" LEFTIST TREND THERE. THIS TIME HE ILLUSTRATED HIS CONCERN BY REFERRING TO COMMUNIST-ORIENTED PROPOGANDA CAMPAIGN IN LUANDA, CHARGING THAT HOLDEN AND MOBUTU ARE US STOOGES (LUANDA 893). HE WAS CHANGRINED AT FACT THAT FREE US PRESS (CITING PARTICULARLY NEWSWEEK) ATTACKED MOBUTU AND ZAIRE FROM ONE SIDE WHILE CONTROLLED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA APPARATUS ALLEGED ZAIRE US DOMINATED.

6. EASUM AND BISENGIMANA AGREED THERE WERE ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF EVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICAN THINKING AND THAT RHODESIA INEVITABLY WOULD HAVE TO ACCOMODATE TO WHAT BISENGIMANA CALLED IRREVERSIBLE FLOW OF HISTORY.
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